TRAPPED IN A SAVAGE WORLD...

JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE™

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8
JAN 94

BY DAVID, VELLUTO & ALBRECHT

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

...AND J'ONN J'ONZZ WILL *NEVER* BE THE *SAME!*

Velluto
Albrecht

How Green Was My Daalie?

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE TASK FORCE, LED BY THE SHAPESHIFTED JOAN J'ONZZ, THE MARTIAN WOMANHUNTER, HAS STUMBLED UPON A LOST SUBTERRANEAN CIVILIZATION OF WOMEN CALLED "DAALS" THAT...

...THAT...

...OH, FORGET IT. IT'S TOO WEIRD TO SAY ALL AT ONCE. WE'LL FILL YOU IN AS WE GO.

JEEZ, WHO WRITES THIS STUFF?

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YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, GREAT JOAN. A WORTHY MATE FOR HER-WHO-MUST-BE-SERVED.

EVERYONE OUT. I NEED TO THINK.

YES, GREAT JOAN.

AS YOU WISH, GREAT JOAN.

GYPSY...YOUR CAMOUFLAGE POWERS DON'T HIDE YOU FROM ME.

I WAS QUITE SPECIFIC THAT I DIDN'T WANT ANY OF YOU IN HERE DURING THIS... FARCE.

SORRY, "JOAN." COULDN'T RESIST.

IF YOU EVER... I MEAN EVER... TELL BLUE BEETLE...

I WON'T.

...OR GUY... OR BOOSTER...

OKAY, ALREADY.

...THE ONLY REASON I'M PLAYING ALONG IS IN HOPES OF A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION. WE ARE THE INTRUDERS, AFTER ALL.

WE MUST FIND WHERE THEY'VE HIDDEN HAGGARD AND THE VIRUS. IF IT'S RELEASED, IT WILL NOT ONLY KILL THE DAALS, BUT POISON THEIR WATER, WHICH LIKELY FEEDS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

STILL, THIS FEMALE MASQUERADE IS STRESSFUL. I'M IRRITABLE... TENSE... MY HEAD ACHES...

HERE. TAKE TWO MIDOL.

PARDON?

TRUST ME.

YES, LUTA?

HER-WHO-MUST-BE-SERVED REQUESTED I CHECK ON YOU TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE AS FETCHING AS POSSIBLE...

...WHICH, CLEARLY, YOU ARE.

I CANNOT, GREAT JOAN. HER INSTRUCTED HE REMAIN IMPRISONED UNTIL AFTER YOUR WEDDING NIGHT, WHEN YOU WILL BE FOREVER BONDED.

THEN CHECK ON HIM TO MAKE SURE HE'S ALL RIGHT.

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU REQUIRE?

BUT GREAT JOAN...

DO IT. NOW!

YES. BRING ME THE "ONLY MAN," AND ALL HIS POSSESSIONS.

...YES, GREAT JOAN.

GET MOVING. FOLLOW?

YES, GREAT JOAN.

I "FOLLOW," GREAT JOAN.

AND BATMAN! FOR GODS' SAKE, DON'T TELL BATMAN!

THIS IS DISGUSTING. A WOMAN MONARCH SEEKING ANOTHER WOMAN AS MATE. IT'S... IT'S UNNATURAL.

...YET THESE WOMEN HAVE ISOLATED THEMSELVES AND SETTLED FOR BONDING WITH OTHER WOMEN.

WHO ARE YOU TO SAY, MAXIMA, WHAT MEANS OF SATISFACTION IS APPROPRIATE FOR A WOMAN?

REAL LIBERAL ATTITUDE THERE, MAXIMA.

DIFFERENT STROKES.

HOLD ON, DIANA. AMAZONS HAD NO MEN AROUND FOR CENTURIES. HOW DID YOU HANDLE THAT?

IT'S NOT A MATTER OF LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE, VIXEN. A WOMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE HER PICK OF MEN...

ALL I'LL SAY IS... WE DON'T CALL IT "PARADISE ISLAND" FOR NOTHING.

HEH HEH. CUTE.

I ALWAYS FIGURED NOT HAVING MEN AROUND WAS ENOUGH REASON FOR IT TO BE PARADISE.

SAY... WHERE'S GYPSY?

I HAVE LOOKED IN ON YOU, AS I WAS REQUESTED. ALL SEEMS WELL.

NOW I MUST GO. THE JOINING CEREMONY IS IMMINENT.

WAIT! WILL YOU LISTEN TO ME, FOR--!

SHE DOES NOT LISTEN BECAUSE SHE, AS DO ALL OF US, CARE ONLY ABOUT THE UPCOMING JOINING CEREMONY.

YEAH, WELL. I WISH SOMEONE WOULD JOIN YOUR HEAD WITH A LARGE ROCK.

KLONK

SEE? SOMETIMES WISHES COME TRUE.

I'M GYPSY.

"GYPSY"? LIKE THE STRIPPER?

IN YOUR DREAMS, PAL.

SO...THAT "KILLER VIRUS" YOU'RE TRANSPORTING... YOU HAVE IT *WITH* YOU?

NO. THEY TOOK IT TO SOMETHING THEY CALL THEIR "HOLY PLACE." I HAVE NO *IDEA* WHERE IT IS.

GET ME *OUT* OF HERE! *HURRY!*

HMM. BUT IF I *SPRING* YOU, THEN THEY'LL START LOOKING FOR WHOEVER LET YOU OUT. CHANCES ARE THEY'LL TURN ON *US*.

JUST SIT TIGHT. WHEN THE GUARD COMES TO, TELL HER YOU SAW A ROCK FALL FROM OVERHEAD. SINCE YOU'RE STILL HERE, SHE *WON'T* FIGURE IT WAS A BREAK-OUT ATTEMPT.

BUT WHEN *ARE* YOU GONNA GET ME *OUTTA* HERE?!

EITHER DURING, OR RIGHT *AFTER* THE WEDDING.

WEDDING?

TA TA TA TA TA

OH, YOU BEAUTIFUL DAALS...

...COME AND JOIN ME, HER-WHO-MUST-BE-SERVED, AT THIS MOST JOYOUS OF MOMENTS.

SO THAT'S THE SCOOP. NOW WHAT, JOAN?

SHOULD I...?

YOU'LL DO NOTHING, YET.

NOT UNTIL I GET "HER" TO TAKE ME TO THIS "HOLY PLACE."

IT IS THE DESTINY OF EVERY HER TO HAVE A MATE. FOR REASONS I NEVER UNDERSTOOD, I FELT THE NEED TO DELAY THAT HONOR.

NOW, AT LAST, I COMPREHEND WHY, JOAN.

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.

YOU WILL BE BY MY SIDE, FOREVER.

WITH THIS KISS, I CONSECRATE OUR LOVE.

:MMMFFFMMM:

:SNIFF:

I love weddings...

WHAT OF MY HAPPINESS? YOU'VE MADE ALL THESE DECISIONS, ARRANGEMENTS... *MARRIED* ME... AND NEVER ONCE ASKED MY OPINION.

YOUR REQUEST TO CONSUMMATE OUR MATING AT THE HOLY PLACE IS MOST UNUSUAL, JOAN.

BUT YOUR HAPPINESS IS MY PREEMINENT DESIRE.

I SIMPLY ASSUMED YOU FELT AS I DID, JOAN. ONE LOOK AT YOU, AND I SAW THE MISSING PART OF MY SOUL.

CERTAINLY *YOU* MUST HAVE FELT IT, TOO.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERABLE IF YOU HAD AT LEAST ASKED ME, INSTEAD OF MAKING ASSUMPTIONS.

I...I AM TRULY SORRY, JOAN! PLEASE DON'T...

...DON'T SAY YOU HATE ME. I...I COULD NOT...

OF COURSE I DON'T HATE YOU. I...

...I FEEL ABOUT YOU AS YOU DO ABOUT ME.

I...I AM RELIEVED, JOAN.

AND I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I ORDERED YOUR COMPANIONS TO STAY BEHIND.

YOU, I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART.

BUT I DO NOT ENTIRELY TRUST THEM. AND I WOULD HAVE NOTHING DISRUPT OUR CONSUMMATION.

OF COURSE I UNDERSTAND. PRIVACY IS VERY IMPORTANT.

Uh...HI. "LUTA," RIGHT?

LOOK, COULD YOU POINT THAT THING THE OTHER W--

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! FOR YEARS I HAVE SERVED HER FAITHFULLY. IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN I WHO WAS CHOSEN MATE. BUT THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR OUTSIDE WORLD FRIENDS, THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN!

--YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING, HAVEN'T YOU?

MAYBE YOU MIGHT WANNA, Y'KNOW, SLEEP IT OFF BEFORE YOU DO SOME-THING WE ALL WILL REGRET.

DRINK I'VE HAD, YES. AND A BELLYFUL OF YOU!

KIAK

TANG

AHHHHHHH...!

SMATCH!

HUH?!

THAT'S THE SECOND TIME I'VE HAD TO DO THAT SINCE I GOT HERE. LET'S NOT GO FOR A THIRD.

GET OUT OF HERE! YOUR KIND HAS DONE ENOUGH!

NOT QUITE.

KRAKK

WE STILL HAVE TO DO A LITTLE MORE.

YOU PALE-SKINNED WITCH!

EEIIII!

SOME COMMENTS AREN'T EVEN WORTHY OF RESPONSES.

THUNK

OOOOFF!

YES. NOW LET'S GO. WE HAVE EVERYTHING PLANNED.

WE'RE GOING DIRECTLY TO THEIR "HOLY PLACE," AND THEN LEAVE DIRECTLY.

YOU'RE WONDER WOMAN!

HOW?

EVERYTHING EXCEPT THAT.

BEFORE WE, UH...START...

...TELL ME WHERE YOU PUT THE OBJECTS THAT YOU TOOK FROM THE ONLY MAN.

I SHALL TELL YOU *AFTERWARDS*, JOAN. *NOTHING* SHALL DISTRACT ME FROM THIS MOMENT, WHICH I HAVE SO LONG ANTICIPATED.

LOOK UPON ME, JOAN J'ONZZ. LOOK AT HER WHO *LOVES* YOU, IN *ALL* HER GLORY.

IS THAT... WHAT I *THINK* IT IS?

WOW. Y'KNOW, I *GUESSED* THE SECRET OF "THE CRYING GAME," BUT THIS I *NEVER* SAW COMING!

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU'RE...YOU'RE *MALE*?!

NOT EXACTLY. EACH GENERATION, THERE IS ONE DAAL WHO IS HALF *MALE*, HALF *FEMALE*. THUS IS OUR SPECIES *PERPETUATED*.

RELAX, JOAN J'ONZZ, IT IS TIME FOR OUR *JOINING*.

LIKE SOME AMPHIBIANS. AND THE GILLS... I SHOULD HAVE...

...ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT!

THERE'S ONLY SO FAR I'M *GOING* WITH THIS!

WHAT IS THIS *TRICK*?! WHERE'S *JOAN*?!

I'LL TELL *YOU THAT* IF YOU TELL ME WHERE THE...

J'ONN! IT'S *HERE*!

IT WAS ANCHORED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER! EVERYTHING'S INTACT...

...ALTHOUGH I MIGHT NOT BE IN A MINUTE!

BACK OFF, SISTER!

SHE'S NOT MUCH OF A TEAM-MATE, BUT SHE'S OURS!

THANKS...

...I THINK.

TASK FORCE! WE ARE LEAVING!

AS I SUSPECTED. THE SUN-LIGHT IS ARTIFICIAL!

I DON'T SEE WHY WE SKULKED AROUND AND PLAYED THIS GAME.

THESE FOOLS WERE NO THREAT TO US.

MAXIMA! STOP YAMMERING AND WATCH YOUR BA--!

AHHHH!

THAT WAS VERY NOBLE, VIXEN.

TRY NOT TO BLEED ON MY COSTUME, THOUGH.

OOOOOFF!

WHAT HAPPENED TO VIXEN?

I DID SOMETHING STUPID.

RISKING YOUR LIFE?

NO. SAVING MAXIMA'S.

YES. I CAN RELATE TO THAT.

THROUGH HERE! IT'S NOT JUST A CAVE! I FEEL WARM GUSTS OF AIR! I THINK IT LEADS TO THE SURFACE.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

AFTER THEM, MY DAALS! HURRY! BRING ME THE HEAD OF JOAN J'ONZZ!

UNNHHH!

SORCERY! I SEE NOTHING... BUT THE WAY IS BLOCKED!

WE'LL SOON BE BEYOND MY RANGE TO PROJECT A PSIONIC FIELD. HOPEFULLY WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH OF A LEAD.

THOSE WOMEN... WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

OUTER SPACE, I WOULD GUESS. THEIR ANCESTORS CREATED THIS SUBTERRANEAN WORLD.

CHANCES ARE THE DAALS DON'T EVEN REMEMBER, OR AT LEAST UNDERSTAND THEIR ANCESTORS' ORIGINS.

BEINGS FROM OUTER SPACE? UNNHH! THAT'S A DUMB THEORY.

...OUT.

YEAH, J'ONN. I GOTTA SAY, THAT'S PRETTY...

...FAR... FETCHED?

SORRY. WHAT WAS I THINKING?

THERE. THROUGH THERE. MY "BAT-RADAR" IS TELLING ME THAT IT OPENS UP PRETTY WIDE.

YOU'RE WEAK FROM BLOOD LOSS, VIXEN. STAY BACK! I'LL CHECK THIS...

A VOLCANO! WE'RE INSIDE A VOLCANO!

WE'VE... THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY...

THERE ISN'T! WE FLY UP AND OUT! THE TOP MUST OPEN ONTO THE SURFACE!

...I CAN'T FLY OVER THAT... UNLESS... SOMEONE CAN CARRY ME...

WE'RE TOO LOADED DOWN AS IS! YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF, J'ONN! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, ANYWAY?

THERE... SHOULDN'T BE ANY. MY FEAR OF FIRE... IT'S PSYCHOSOMATIC. I... I SHOULDN'T... BUT IT'S JUST SO... SO HOT! IT...

FOR GOD'S SAKE, STOP YOUR WHIMPERING...

...AND ACT LIKE A WOMAN!

...HEH. YES. YES, OF COURSE.

GO ON AHEAD. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND.

I CAN DO THIS.

I CAN DO THIS!

JUST... DON'T LOOK DOWN!

IT WAS A LIE!

YOU WERE LAUGHING AT ME! ALL THE TIME, SECRETLY LAUGHING!

I THOUGHT I LOVED YOU, BUT THERE WAS NOTHING THERE TO LOVE!

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME! YOU NEVER--!

HER!

EEEEE

OOF!

ST...STOP!

AHHH...!

DON'T MOVE! DON'T SAY ANYTHING...

...UNTIL I GET YOU BACK UP TO THE LEDGE.

HER... I AM...

...I AM TRULY SORRY. I AM SORRY TO HAVE DECEIVED YOU.

BUT I WAS NEVER LAUGHING AT YOU. I...

...IS GIVE YOU BACK YOURS.

IF YOU EVER CHANGE YOUR MIND, JOAN J'ONZZ... I SHALL BE HERE.

I DON'T WANT YOUR APOLOGIES.

YOU'VE SAVED MY LIFE. THE LEAST I CAN DO...

AND...

THERE IS A TEMPTING SIMPLICITY IN THE NOTION OF SHIRKING EVERYTHING... LIVING IN A "ROMANTIC" UNDERGROUND WORLD.

SHE TOLD ME I COULD COME BACK IF I EVER CHANGED MY MIND.

BUT I THINK OUR PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP WOULD BE... STRAINED.

THAT'S YOUR CALL, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, J'ONN?

PERHAPS, BUT NOT A DECISION I CHOOSE TO MAKE.

LET'S GO.

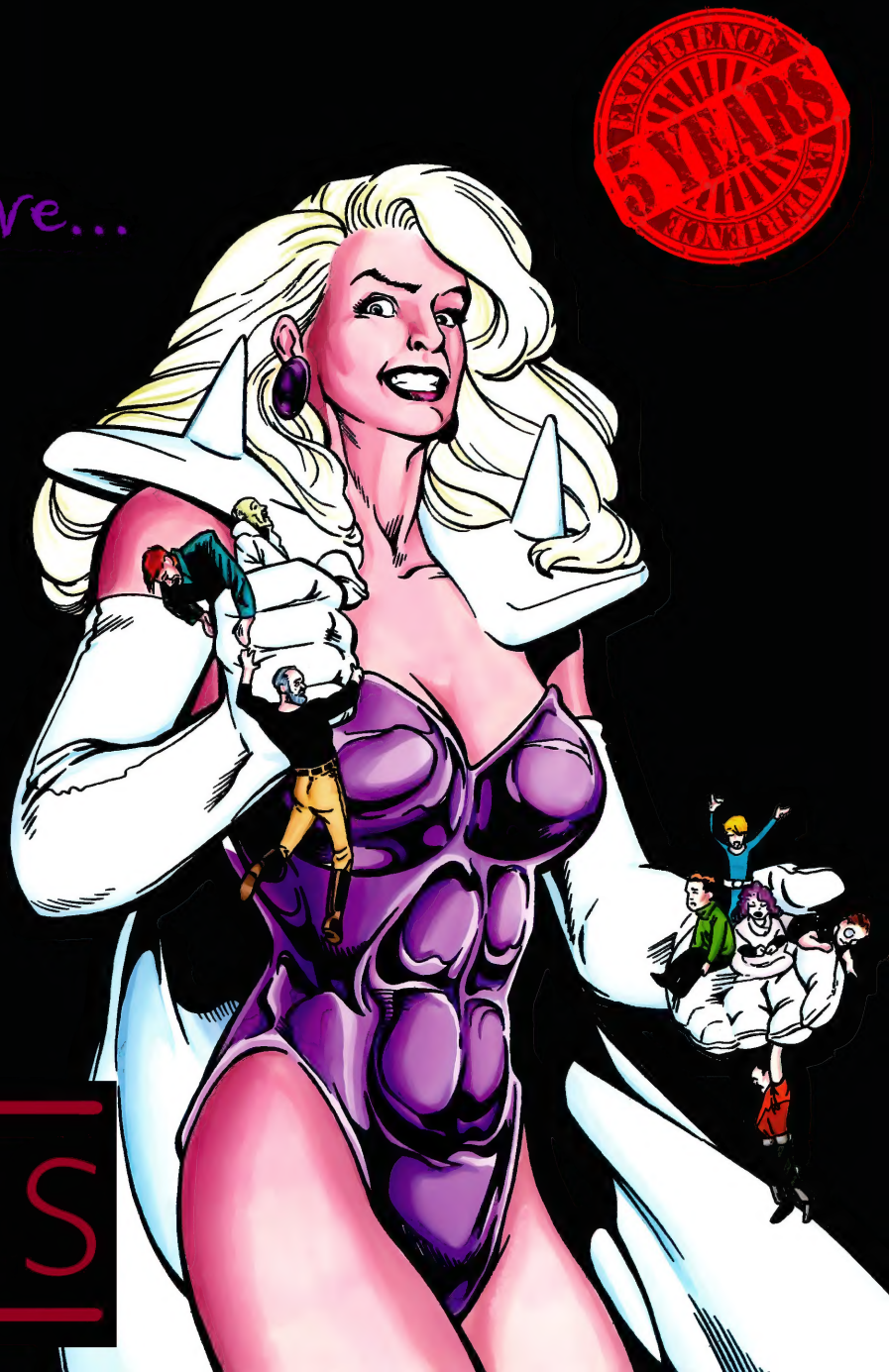
HEY, J'ONN... LIFE SURE IS A BI--

THAT'S ENOUGH, GYPSY... QUITE ENOUGH.

THE END

DEDICATED TO E.R.B., H.R.H., L.A., SHE... AND HIDDEN DOMAINS EVERYWHERE!

From Baaldur, with love...



GLORITH

novus